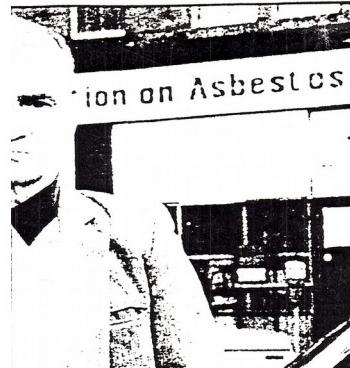


OM DAMAGES OCK AT IEY CUT



Mulin doesn't believe the victims are being treated correctly. "The longer a case drags on in court, the more money the victim stands to lose."

HORRIFIED

The civil servants who drafted it simply don't understand reparation cases, and don't really want to see them.

Labour's Scots Health spokesman in Galbraith blasted the situation.

"It think it is completely callous. It's difficult enough trying to get people compensation, but then

to remove part of it and pay it to the DSS is grossly unfair."

The GMB, one of the country's biggest unions, has circulated interested organisations urging them not to give up on cases because of the legislation.

It has made its case quite clear.

"The scheme is yet another Government initiative which will mean that workers get nothing out of it."

But the DSS has no intention of changing the controversial scheme.

A spokeswoman said: "Basically the law is aimed at restoring the losses claimants have suffered from

it is not the intention that the claimant should receive both benefits and compensation for the same injury or disease."

Centre opens

them through the complicated procedure of claiming from the DHSS."

The centre has so far helped around 150 people claim, with backdated awards amounting in some cases to £30,000. The total awards made to people helped by the centre already exceed £250,000, she says.

The unit hopes to obtain funding under the urban aid scheme, to enable it to employ a full-time worker.

For more details: Asbestos Victims Centre, 5 St Margaret's Place, Briggait, Glasgow (041-552 8852).

This is Williamina Watkins. She is dying because she cleaned her husband's clothes

DUST of DEATH



SPECIAL REPORT
By MAGGIE BARRY

bath. Then I would wash them in the double tub and put them through the wringer.

She beat them, she shook them, she brushed his shoes, and afterwards she cleaned the last specks of asbestos out of the carpet.

In 1976 Charlie died from asbestos and today Williamina is paying the price for being a loving, caring wife.

Now she has contracted the relatively rare condition, mesothelioma, and has only months to live.

And she got it from cleaning his clothes.

"Charlie would come home on a Friday night and he was covered in white dust from head to toe," she said.

"And she got it from cleaning his clothes."

"You had to take the jumpers, shirt, all his working clothes" and beat the white off them before you could wash them.

"You couldn't have that mess in

the house," she believed.

"I like everything else. But one of us has a time limit. It's up to us to say how long we have."

"But it's very frustrating to

have been used to a hectic life.

Dose

With clinical coldness and no trace of self-pity, she describes how she makes her way through each day from dose to dose of medication, beginning with a large shot of saline as soon as she wakes up in the pain.

She sleeps on sheepskin, not bedclothes, but sleeps badly and banks up by pillows without turning all night.

Even the least insignificant task makes her breathless. She cannot make a prisoner of her television, she does not relish, for she never an avid watcher.

She worked all her days, did as they say, knew from

Todays even the smallest

household tasks leave her panting for breath.

And the injustice of it is, she says, she lived their life to the full, Williamina Watkins.

She came to Glasgow from Girvan as a young woman trained as a nurse at the Queen General and Belvidere and in her early years worked near asbestos.



GLASWEIGIANS FIGHT ASBESTOS

Nearly 100 people, many of whom were seriously ill with asbestos related diseases, turned out on a very wet day in June for the first annual general meeting of the Clydeside Action on Asbestos campaign. They heard the chair, Bob Crockett, describe an eventful first year: at long last a grant of 2,500 pounds from Strathclyde Regional Council; low rent premises at 5 St Margaret's Place, Glasgow which are to be occupied shortly; a very active Victim's Support Group. Activities during the year included meeting with trade unions, discussing with